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## Roots in Castletown

203 Thurston Road

The history of the City's 19th Ward dates to the late 1700s and early 1800s, when a dense forest area at what is now the intersection of Brooks Avenue and Genesee Street was cleared and developed as a center of trade along the banks of the Genesee River. With the establishment of the area's first tavern and store, where Colonel Isaac Castle was the proprietor, the community became known as Castletown. Development of the 19th Ward grew and changed over many decades, with important milestones such as construction of the Elmwood Bridge and the City's purchase of a tract of land to serve as Genesee Valley Park.

This historic backdrop provides a sense of context for this 1920 home located at the corner of Thurston Road and Roxborough Street. The front entry, facing Roxborough Street, leads to a foyer with beautiful wood trim and a glass paneled interior door. The rich wood trim of the foyer continues throughout the dining room to the right and living room to the left, which are marked by arched entries, cove molding and original hardwood floors. The living room is light-filled, with generous windows on three sides. A glass paneled doorway on the east side of the living room leads to a covered outdoor porch, which is a hallmark of the home. The porch is bounded by a heavy wooden balustrade, providing privacy and the feeling of an indoor-outdoor room. A spacious kitchen with its own entry to the

outside and small side porch is immediately adjacent to the dining room. In addition, the home is ideal for a separate apartment or "in-law" quarters, as the west side of the first floor also contains a service kitchen, family room, separate entry, and smaller side rooms.

A wide staircase of hardwood flooring and a small landing leads to the second floor. The master bedroom is spacious and bright, with an adjoining dressing room flanked by built-in shelving. Two additional bedrooms and a full bath are on the second floor. The third floor could easily serve as a living space or bedroom, as it is light-filled with several windows, built-in shelving and abundant closet and storage space.

The home's location on a corner lot allows for a great deal of both sun and shade. The two-car detached garage faces Roxborough Street. With a total area of 2,190 square feet, this home is well-suited for a family. 203 Thurston Rd. is listed with William Tierney of Nothnagle Realtors (585-381-4770), at a list price of \$115,000. The 19th Ward is well known for its engaged citizenry and the 19th Ward Community Association, one of the oldest neighborhood associations in the city.

by Susan Wylie

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